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FOLLOWING REPEAT USIA 12010-C SENT TO ALL PRINCIPAL
USIS POSTS EXCEPT IEA POSTS 6 JUNE. QUOTE

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NIXON'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP

PRESIDENT NIXON BEGINS HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP ON JUNE 10. HE
WILL VISIT EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, ISRAEL AND JORDAN. THIS
IS THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT VISITED EGYPT IN 1945.
PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT FOLLOWS THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF
ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS
IN WHICH THE U.S. PLAYED A KEY MEDIATING ROLE. IT ALSO
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COINCIDES WITH A MARKED UPTURN IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH EGYPT,

SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. THIS VISIT IS EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF PUTTING THE IMPRIMATUR ON AMERICA'S DRAMATIC RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN MAINTAINING THE DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM TOWARD A LASTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

MEDIA TREATMENT

PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP FULLY--PARTICULARLY FOR OUR MID-EAST AUDIENCES--A NUMBER OF THEMES ON THE CURRENT U.S. POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ADDITIONALLY, AS THE TRIP PROGRESSES, WE CAN USEFULLY HIGHLIGHT SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EACH COUNTRY VISITED.

SOME OF THE GENERAL POINTS TO STRESS ARE:

----THE UNPRECEDENTED U.S. EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST LED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CONTRIBUTION TO TROOP DISENGAGEMENT ON BOTH FRONTS. ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE PRAISED THESE EFFORTS.

----U.S. MEDIATION HAS HELPED TO LOWER THE BARRIERS OF HOSTILITY AND MISTRUST AND TO FOSTER A CHANGED CLIMATE OF OPINION NECESSARY FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE.

----THE U.S. IS THE ONLY POWER SUFFICIENTLY TRUSTED AND RESPECTED BY BOTH SIDES TO PLAY THIS KEY MEDIATING ROLE.

----THE FACT THAT BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS REQUESTED THE U.S. TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK UNDERSCORES THE UNIQUE U.S. POSITION IN MID-EAST AFFAIRS.

----U.S. EFFORTS DURING THE PAST MONTHS HAVE CONVINCED ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS THE U.S. IS SINCERE IN ITS DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT A JUST PEACE AND IS NOT MOTIVATED BY OTHER AIMS.

----RECENT STATEMENTS BY ARAB LEADERS -- PARTICULARLY THOSE OF SADAT, BOUMEDIENNE AND ASAD -- AS WELL AS SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS OF TRUST THAT MAY BE FORTHCOMING DURING THE VISIT
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UNDERSCORE THIS CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S.

----THE VERY REAL PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE ACHIEVED THUS FAR IS, NONETHELESS, ONLY A BEGINNING. EVEN MORE INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

----THE U.S. IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS UNPRECEDENTED EFFORTS TO FIND A JUST AND PERMANENT SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST

PROBLEMS.

-----AMERICA'S CONCERN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT LIMITED TO ENDING HOSTILITIES BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THE PEACEFUL EVOLUTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THAT REGION. THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REFLECTS THIS CONCERN.

-----THE U.S. IS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE URGENCY AND COMPLEXITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, IN PARTICULAR THAT THERE CANNOT BE A PERMANENT MID-EAST SETTLEMENT THAT DOES NOT MEET THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

-----THE U.S. RECOGNIZES THE HIGH STATESMANSHIP DISPLAYED BY ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS IN SEEKING A PEACEFUL AND NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THEIR DIFFERENCES.

-----THE MODERATE FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE STRIVING TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE MUST NOT BE DISRUPTED BY THE ACTIONS OF TERRORISTS AND THE COUNTER-VIOLENCE IT PRODUCES.

-----VAST CHANGES IN U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS AND IN ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. HAVE EMERGED FROM U.S. EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE.

-----THE MOST VISIBLE ASPECTS OF THIS RAPPROCHEMENT ARE: A) THE RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT ON FEB. 28; B) THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND POSSIBLE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; C) THE U.S. ROLE IN SWEEPING AND CLEARING THE SUEZ CANAL; D) THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT, ISRAEL AND JORDAN TOGETHER WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECONSTRUCTION IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS:

E) THE FORMATION ON MAY 31 OF A JOINT U.S.-EGYPTIAN COMMISSION TO INTENSIFY ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION; AND F) DISCUSSIONS (JUNE 6-7) WITH PRINCE FAHD OF SAUDI ARABIA TO EXPAND COOPERATION IN ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY AS WELL AS ASSIST SAUDI ARABIA IN PROVIDING FOR ITS DEFENSE.

-----THE U.S. HOPES THAT ITS EFFORTS WILL LEAD TO INCREASED FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL ARAB COUNTRIES.

-----THIS U.S.-ARAB RAPPROCHEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT ANY LOOSENING OF CLOSE TIES WITH ISRAEL WHICH SEES IMPROVED U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

-----SECRETARY KISSINGER'S WASHINGTON ARRIVAL STATEMENT THAT
"WHEN AMERICA STANDS FOR ITS VALUES, ITS VALUES ARE RELEVANT
ALSO TO THE REST OF THE WORLD" UNDERSCORES U.S. DEDICATION TO
BUILDING A STRUCTURE OF PEACE IN WHICH ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES
LIVE IN DIGNITY AND ARE TREATED WITH JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS.

-----U.S. STEADFASTNESS IN SUPPORT OF ITS VALUES IS CAPABLE
OF BRINGING FORTH A RESPONSE FROM OTHER NATIONS WHICH AD-
VANCES THE DESIRE OF ALL PEOPLE FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL
WORLD.

-----THESE VALUES ARE NOT THOSE OF ONE ADMINISTRATION BUT
THOSE THAT AMERICANS SHARE WITH OTHER PEOPLES. ARAB AND
ISRAELI TRUST IN AMERICA'S DEDICATION TO THESE VALUES PLAYED
NO SMALL PART IN HELPING THEM TO TRANSCEND THE HOSTILITY OF
THE PAST GENERATION AND TO TAKE THE FIRST BUT VERY REAL STEPS
TOWARD PEACE.

-----THERE IS NO NEED TO GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO REFER TO THE
SOVIET ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST UNLESS THE PRESIDENT RAISES
IT. DECONTROL JUNE 6, 1976 KOPP UNQUOTE SISCO

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